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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR/Iran

DATE DISTR. 8 June 1951

SUBJECT Denial of Soviet Troop Concentrations on the Iranian Border

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

An article appearing on 6 June in the rightist Tehran newspaper Keyhan indicated that Soviet troops were being concentrated along the Iranian border. The article expressed the opinion that these concentrations were out of the ordinary and could not be justified by routine border surveillance. The same article also stated that one Soviet aircraft crashed near the frontier at Atrek. The substance of this article was cabled to their home offices by the local representatives of United Press, Associated Press, and Reuters, who were subsequently queried for further details by their home offices. This report of troop concentrations is denied.

1. On 25 May at 1600 hours one Soviet fighter aircraft crashed on Soviet territory opposite the Iranian post of Chat-I-Atrek (37-59N, 55-16E). One half hour later two Soviet aircraft landed near the wreck and picked up the body of the pilot. A ground crew later dismantled the wreckage and trucked it away.
2. The newspaper Keyhan's reference to troop concentrations is groundless. Soviet border activities are on the increase but can be justified by border surveillance and seasonal troop rotation, and in no way represent alarming concentrations. It is felt that the Keyhan article is of no importance whatsoever, and is based entirely on misinterpretation of various information gathered by the press.

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This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

Next Review Date: 2008